

Agency 14 - Public Service Commission

Statutory Authority:

The State Railway Commission was established by constitutional amendment in 1906. The scope of authority and organization are contained in Article IV, Section 20, and Article X, Sections 1-8 of the Nebraska Constitution, as well as Chapters 71, 75, 86, 88 and 89 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes 1943. The agency name was changed in 1972 to the Public Service Commission. A complete set of the current rules and regulations is on file with the Revisor of Regulations.

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Public Service Commission is for Nebraska citizens to be provided safe, affordable convenient services in the areas under PSC jurisdiction.

Mission Statement:

Goals:

The goals of the Public Service Commission are to execute its constitutional and statutory duties in a consistent, professional and forthright manner at the least cost and for the greatest benefit to the State of Nebraska.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	2,112,115	2,209,621	2,320,402	2,104,052	2,380,378	2,151,547
Cash Fund	49,484,506	75,760,120	85,668,032	85,676,923	88,847,180	88,896,911
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	51,596,621	77,969,741	87,988,434	87,780,975	91,227,558	91,048,458

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Program 014 - Commissioner's Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program includes only the personal service expenditures for the five elected Public Service Commissioners. LB 956, approved in the second session of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature, amended the statutes to raise the Commissioner's salaries to \$50,000 annually, effective January 9, 2003.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	262,129	297,859	320,712	323,705	320,712	328,169
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	262,129	297,859	320,712	323,705	320,712	328,169

Performance Measures:

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Program 016 - Commissioner's Expenses

Program Objectives:

This program was created and begun during the 1976-77 fiscal year and contains "expense voucher" costs incurred by the five Public Service Commissioners.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	31,923	37,000	47,100	35,774	48,300	35,952
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	31,923	37,000	47,100	35,774	48,300	35,952

Performance Measures:

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Program 019 - Modular Housing Units Program

Program Objectives:

The department intends to continue to protect the health and safety of those that live in or use manufactured homes, modular housing units and recreational vehicles but without placing unnecessary burdens upon the manufacturers. In addition, when such occasions arise, the department will continue to educate the public in the use of such products and promote state and local agreements for interstate shipment of these products. This will further the acceptance and use of these products, therefore increasing these products rate of manufacturing, creating more jobs for Nebraskans.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	484,769	686,140	621,794	633,268	606,725	649,294
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	484,769	686,140	621,794	633,268	606,725	649,294

Performance Measures:

All three (3) of these products monitored by the department are produced in Nebraska. However, many more are produced in Nebraska than can be absorbed by Nebraskans. A majority of their products are sold in other states. Significant attention is therefore placed upon the department's capabilities to not only enforce the manufacturer's compliance to the construction codes, but to also develop inspection agreements with other states and local communities so that the Nebraska products can ship across state lines with a minimum of additional expenses to the manufacturers.

The department's goal is to continue assisting in developing market areas for these products without sacrificing consumer protection. This is accomplished by continuing the training of divisional staff, keeping manufacturers abreast of construction code changes, following up on market area requests for these products and maintaining the state's low level of consumer complaints.

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Program 054 - Enforcemnt Of Standards-public Utility

Program Objectives:

The Commission regulates market entry and service of the following industries: grain warehouses and grain dealers; household goods movers and passenger transportation (includes rate regulation); and telecommunications and automatic dialing and announcing devices.

In conjunction with such regulation, the Commission receives and investigates consumer complaints, informal and formal. Its assistance of telecommunications consumers includes consumers of wireless service.

Additionally, the Commission has regulatory authority over the placement of electrical transmission lines; gas pipeline placement; grain moisture meters; private water company rates; and railroad locomotive and track safety.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	1,818,063	1,874,762	1,952,590	1,744,573	2,011,366	1,787,426
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,818,063	1,874,762	1,952,590	1,744,573	2,011,366	1,787,426

Performance Measures:

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Program 060 - Grain Warehousing

Program Objectives:

This program is comprised of the Grain Warehouse Surveillance Cash Fund, the Moisture Testing Program, and the Grain Warehouse Auditing Cash Fund. The Grain Warehouse Surveillance Cash Fund was established by the Legislature on July 1, 1984, to be used by the Commission to pay for expenses in the closing of a grain warehouse. The Moisture Testing Program is responsible for inspecting every moisture meter used in the state to determine the moisture content of grain delivered for sale. The Grain Warehouse Auditing Cash Fund was established in February of 1997 to offset costs and purchase necessary equipment in the performance of soybean check-off audits for the Nebraska Soybean Board.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	32,330	23,687	25,550	25,573	25,550	25,573
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	32,330	23,687	25,550	25,573	25,550	25,573

Performance Measures:

GRAIN WAREHOUSE SURVEILLANCE CASH FUND

The Commission uses this fund to pay operating expenses and salaries when it becomes necessary to liquidate grain inventories at insolvent grain warehouses.

GRAIN WAREHOUSE AUDITING CASH FUND

Our goal is to complete as many audits as the Soybean Board requests us to do in the course of a year's time provided it does not interfere with our examination schedule of grain warehouses.

MOISTURE TESTING PROGRAM

Performance is based on how many meters are rejected over the course of a year. By working with manufacturers and analyzing laboratory findings, the Commission's goal is to have an accurate meter at each testing location that will be within one-half percent plus or minus tolerance of our meters.

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Program 064 - Nebraska Telephone Relay System Fund

Program Objectives:

Assure that persons with hearing and/or speech impairments are able to communicate just as individuals without such impairments using the Nebraska Relay System.

Action Plans:

1. Evaluate the quality of the Nebraska Relay System using requirements set up by the Commission and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
2. Meet with the Relay Advisory Committee and the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and respond to any customer complaints about the relay system.
3. Assure that eligible individuals have access to equipment to be able to communicate using TDD's, amplifiers, etc.
4. Assure that billings and performance measurements for the service are in compliance with the contract for this service.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	1,385,782	1,456,232	1,429,386	1,430,654	1,470,219	1,472,415
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,385,782	1,456,232	1,429,386	1,430,654	1,470,219	1,472,415

Performance Measures:

1. Audits of the Nebraska Relay System and consultation with the FCC have shown that the system has met or exceeded all of the performance measures required by the Commission and the FCC.
2. Advisory meetings have been held at least twice a year with members to discuss the relay and respond to any concerns brought to their attention by the hearing impaired community. Continual contact is maintained with the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to monitor their concerns with the relay.
3. An equipment distribution program was instituted in April of 1996 to provide credits to eligible individuals for their purchase of certain telecommunications equipment. The following statistics include:

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Households served	75	82	275	340	444

4. Review of the monthly billings and performance measurements is performed by staff to assure that contractual terms and rates are being met.

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Program 071 - Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund

Program Objectives:

This program provides financial assistance to counties and municipalities in order to help them obtain broadband or other advanced telecommunications services.

Action Plans:

1. Adopt rules and regulations as required by enabling legislation.
2. Appoint an advisory board to assist with administration of the fund.
3. Open application period and distribute funds.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	2,893	506,578	500,000	500,031	500,000	500,090
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,893	506,578	500,000	500,031	500,000	500,090

Performance Measures:

1. The Commission adopted rules and regulations implementing the enabling legislation on December 18, 2001, which received final approval from the Governor on March 28, 2002.
2. An advisory board was appointed on May 14, 2002.
3. An application period will be opened annually, as funding permits.

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Program 212 - Nebr Competitive Tele Marketplace

Program Objectives:

This program monitors the competitive performance of a regional bell operating company.

Action Plans:

1. Monitor compliance with section 271 of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.
2. Consult with the Federal Communications Commission regarding the regional bell operating company in Nebraska.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000

Performance Measures:

Agency 14 - Public Service Commission Program 583 - Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund

Program Objectives:

The purpose of this program is to provide enhanced wireless 911 service throughout the State of Nebraska.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	112,695	4,593,214	4,504,940	4,489,346	4,654,940	4,640,338
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	112,695	4,593,214	4,504,940	4,489,346	4,654,940	4,640,338

Performance Measures:

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Program 686 - Ne Telecomm. Universal Service Fund

Program Objectives:

In 1997, the Legislature passed LB 686, authorizing the Commission to create the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). The goals of the NUSF are, in conjunction with federal universal service funds, to:

1. Ensure that telecommunication and information services and prices are reasonably comparable between rural and urban areas;
2. Ensure that telecommunication and information service are offered at affordable prices;
3. Ensure that all providers of telecommunications services make equitable and nondiscriminatory contributions to universal service, and;
4. Ensure that any universal service mechanisms are specific, predictable, sufficient and competitively neutral.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	47,466,037	68,494,269	78,486,362	78,498,051	81,489,746	81,509,201
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	47,466,037	68,494,269	78,486,362	78,498,051	81,489,746	81,509,201

Performance Measures: